

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /058 W

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P R 271529Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2527

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, US, BE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR NEOGITATIONS

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKESMAN (BAEKELANDT) MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS CONCERNING US-BELGIAN CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS IN HIS WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFING, NOV 27. HE NOTED THAT BELGIAN-US CIVAIR ACCORD WAS ONE OF FIRST MADE AFTER WW II AND THAT IS PROVIDED FOR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES AT INITIATIVE OF EITHER SIDE. UNLIKE MANY SUBSEQUENT CIVAIR ACCORDS, BLEGIAN-US ACCORD DOES NOT MENTION CAPACITIES. THE US HAVE REQUESTED CONSULTATION WITH BELGIUM ON THE ACCORD AND BELGIUM HAS ACCEPTED. THE US WANTS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHTS AND THE SIZE OF AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN THAT TRAFFIC. BELGIUM DOES NOT WANT THE TALKS TO BE LIMITED TO CAPACITIES, BUT RATHER TO DOVER ALL RELATED AIRLINE ISSUES. NO DATES HAVE YET BEEN SET FOR THE DISCUSSIONS. BELGIUM WILL BE DISCUSSING CIVAIR MATTERS WITH JAPAN IN MID-DECEMBER AND WOULD PREFER THAT THE TALKS WITH THE US TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY.

2. GOING OFF THE RECORD, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN MADE TWO POINTS: A) BELGIUM WANTS TO REACTIVATE ITS APPLICATION FOR LANDING RIGHTS IN THE US, WHICH HAD EARLIER BEEN TURNED
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DOWN; AND B) SPEAKING "PERSONALLY", THERE SHOULD BE A NEW

NORTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS CIVIL AIR ISSUES. STILL
OFF THE RECORD, SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BELGIUM CANNOT GIVE IN
TO "PRINCIPLE OF NATIONALITY" IN AIR TRANSPORT. "IT IS THE
VOCATION OF BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS TO PROVIDE TRANS-
ATLANTIC PASSAGE FOR NATIONALS OTHER THAN THEIR OWN,
INCLUDING AMERICAN CITIZENS." END OFF THE RECORD.

3. SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT SABENA SEAT OCCUPANCY
RATE ON NORTH ATLANTIC RUN AVERAGES 60 PERCENT. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE09314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740344-0774
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974119/aaaaahdb.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR NEOGITATIONS
TAGS: EAIR, US, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005